

**IT'S FARE FOR ALL  
GROCERY BUYING PROGRAM  
SAVES YOU MONEY**



**T**HE FARE FOR ALL grocery buying program is available to anyone who wants to save 30 - 40 percent on groceries. A variety of food packages containing nutritious foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, rice and pasta are available for \$10 - \$20.

New customers may register and prepay for food packages at Creekside, **Saturday, February 21, 10 - 11 a.m.**, and pick up food packages on **Saturday, March 21**. Future distribution dates, to be announced, will be the 3rd or 4th Saturday of each month. Participants are encouraged to volunteer in their community. This program is cosponsored by the Emergency Foodshelf Network, in partnership with Bloomington Human Services.

For more information, call *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



**READ ALL ABOUT IT  
HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDES VALUABLE SERVICES**

**T**HE HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION provides valuable programs and services to community members of all ages.

Human Services' publications' such as *Senior Splash*' are now being transitioned into the award-winning *Briefing* in an effort to reach even more residents. Expect more detailed program information, feature stories, in-depth profiles on members of your community, volunteer spotlights and more.

In addition to working with older adults, people with disabilities and low income families, Human Services enhances the quality of life and services for all Bloomington residents through partnerships, advocacy and resources' and by providing valuable information. The Human Rights Commission and Bloomington Sister City organization are supported by the Division.

For more information, call *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY or visit the City's website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Human Services.



**TAX SERVICES OFFERED**

**F**REE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE is available at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who meet income-qualifying guidelines. Tax assistance includes the following programs:

**ACCOUNTABILITY MINNESOTA**

AccountAbility Minnesota will provide tax assistance to individuals with incomes of \$30,000 or less, and families with incomes of \$45,000 or less.

- When: Tuesdays, January 27 - April 14
- Time: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- When: Thursdays, January 29 - April 9
- Time: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- When: Saturdays, January 31 - April 11
- Time: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (*In March only, hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*)



**AARP TAX-AIDE**

The City of Bloomington is partnering with AARP Tax-Aide to provide free tax preparation services to middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to persons age 60 and older. The AARP Tax-Aide program prepares personal income tax returns including the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

- When: Mondays, February 2 - April 13 (*Except February 16*)
- Time: 9 a.m. - noon
- When: Tuesdays, February 3 - April 14



**RACE OF A LIFETIME  
BLOOMINGTON RUNNERS  
COMPETE IN JAPAN**

**T**HE SENSU INTERNATIONAL Marathon takes place in Osaka, Japan, on **Sunday, February 15**. Bloomington representatives Ashley Anklam and Mike Olson will be there with their running shoes on, ready to compete.

Each year, two runners are selected by Bloomington Sister City Organization as part of a cultural exchange between Bloomington and its sister city Izumi City, Japan. This 26.2-mile international marathon invites runners from all over the world to compete. To learn more, contact Bloomington Sister City Organization at 952-563-8713; TTY 952-563-8740 or visit [www.bloomington-izumi.org](http://www.bloomington-izumi.org).



**CALLING ALL RESIDENTS  
CELL PHONE TECHNOLOGY  
WORKSHOP AT CREEKSIDE**

**H**UMAN SERVICES and AT&T invite residents, 50 years old and older, to learn more about how to use their personal cell phones. The workshop takes place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, on **Monday, March 30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Instructions on basic cell phone operation, voicemail and text messaging will be covered. Attendees will also receive a 20-minute, one-on-one coaching session with an AT&T cell phone expert. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required. For more information, call 952-563-4944 or 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

**WANTED: YOUR OLD CELL PHONE**

If you'd like to donate a cell phone with a wall charger that was purchased within the last five years, drop it off at Creekside. Volunteers with Qwest Pioneers will clear the phones of personal data and reprogram them to access 911. Donated phones will be distributed to older adult Bloomington residents and residents with disabilities or medical conditions.

**IMPROVE YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

**POSITIVE AGING  
TALKING ABOUT AGING IN THE COMMUNITY**

**H**UMAN SERVICES WANTS TO ENGAGE Bloomington residents in a conversation about what it means to "age positively" in the community. Traditional programs for older adults may meet the needs of those who created them in the 1970s, but baby boomers and others considering retirement are now looking for something different. Technology is expanding rapidly to allow people to be safe and vital in their own homes and community even longer.

We need your input on topics ranging from social needs, health and wellness and concierge-type services. If you are interested in being a part of the conversation, contact Human Services Coordinator Tracy Smith at 952-563-4955.



**SHARING CUSTOMS  
AND CULTURE  
GLOBAL CELEBRATION 2009  
VENDORS NEEDED**

**M**ARK YOUR CALENDAR! The 2nd Annual Global Celebration will be held **Saturday, June 20**, at Civic Plaza. This special event is a cultural kaleidoscope of diverse entertainment, colorful exhibits, ethnic cuisine and fun games and activities for children. World cultural crafters, artists, entertainers and vendors are being sought. For more information, call *Ask the City* 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



**KEEP YOUR MIND AND  
BODY ACTIVE  
HOME AND TECHNOLOGY  
EXPO FOR AGING ADULTS**

**T**HIS FREE EVENT takes place at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on **Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Created especially for active, aging adults, this expo provides information on housing options, City services and the new technology available to aging adults and their families. Attendees are invited to visit with providers and try the innovative new technology designed to assist older adults with everyday tasks, including keeping the body and mind active. A seminar on caregiving will also be held. For information, visit the City's website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).